

# Abyssinian sand terrier

**African hairless dogs**, also known as **Abyssinian sand terriers**, were [hairless dogs](#) from [Africa](#). It is unknown if any examples still exist.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>

This breed of dog, also known as the African Sand Dog, is known for being “semi-wild” meaning they tend to follow rather than live with the cattle breeders; though they occasionally serve as valuable companions on hunting trips. Among the names of this “breed” are the words Egyptian, Abyssinian, and Zulu which simply suggests that the genes for hairlessness have appeared independently in multiple areas of the continent as a cooling system in high heat.

A number of early European accounts from Africa mention a small hairless dog. It was described as fast moving with a short, sharp bark, and it was said to be either sandy-coloured or blue-black. Contemporary reports indicated it may or may not have had a crest of stiff hair on its head and a tuft on its tail, although photographs fail to show any hair.<sup>[1][4]</sup> Three examples were brought to Britain in 1833 and were displayed at the [London Zoo](#) as Egyptian Hairless dogs; a specimen dating from 1903 is preserved at the [Natural History Museum at Tring](#) in [Hertfordshire, England](#).<sup>[1]</sup> These accounts of the African hairless dogs suggest that they were encountered across the continent. They are believed to be extinct, although no thorough search has been conducted across Africa to confirm they no longer exist.<sup>[1]</sup>

## See also

- [American Hairless Terrier](#)

**African hairless dog**



An African hairless dog at the [Natural History Museum at Tring](#)

<b>Other names</b>	Abyssinian sand dog Abyssinian sand terrier Abessijnse zandterrier African elephant dog African sand dog Zulu sand dog
<b>Origin</b>	<a href="#">Africa</a>
<b>Breed status</b>	<a href="#">Extinct</a>
<b>Traits</b>	
<b>Coat</b>	<a href="#">Hairless</a>
Dog ( <a href="#">domestic dog</a> )	

- [Argentine Pila](#)
- [Chinese Crested Dog](#)
- [Peruvian Inca Orchid](#)
- [Xoloitzcuintle](#)

## References


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1. [Morris, Desmond](#) (2001). *Dogs:the ultimate dictionary of over 1,000 dog breeds*. North Pomfret, VT: Trafalgar Square Publishing. pp. 319–320. [ISBN 1-57076-219-8](#).
2. Gondrexon-Ives Brown, A. (1974). *A guide to dogs of the world*. Lausanne: Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd. p. 222. [ISBN 0-907812-17-1](#).
3. Wilcox, Bonnie; Walkowicz, Chris (1995). *Atlas of dog breeds of the world*. Neptune City, N.J.: TFH Publications. p. 288.
4. Lane, Charles Henry (1900). *All About Dogs: A Book for Doggy People*. Kessinger Publishing, LLC. [ISBN 9781165937967](#).

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